14th December 1938]

Increase of the pay of Government medical officers.

*121 Q.—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of increasing the pay of medical men in Government service was considered by the Government previously and refused; and

(b) if so, on what grounds?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"(a) The answer is in the negative.

"(b) The question does not arise."

High percentage of insanity among people on the West Coast.

* 122 Q.—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether any special enquiry was made after the census of 1931 or any other census into the causes which led to the very high percentage of insanity on the West Coast as per successive census figures; and

(b) if no enquiry has been made, whether there is any proposal to make special enquiry?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"(a) The answer is in the negative. It is likely that the figures shown against Malabar in the census reports include the patients from other districts also, as mental patients from Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, South Kanara and Anjengo were also admitted in the Mental Hospital, Calicut.

"(b) The answer is in the negative."

SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that there is a special remark in the census report that the increase is not due to the lunatics in the Calicut Mental Hospital, and that there are more Malayali mad-men in parts outside Malabar than Tamil Nad mad-men in Malabar?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I am very thankful to the hon. Member for the information." (Renewed laughter.)

High percentage of blindness among people on the West Coast.

* 123 Q.—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the cause of the very large percentage of blindness on the West Coast according to successive census reports has ever been investigated; and

(b) if not whether the Government have any proposal to enquire into the question?